

SAFETY ALERT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5056



AFZF-GA-SAFE

10 OCT 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: M116A2 Trailers – Safety Alert 02-02

1. Several days ago, an M116A2 trailer that was being towed by a HMMWV rolled onto its top when the trailer tongue (drawbar coupler) weld broke off the trailer frame. Fortunately, no injuries occurred; however, the trailer was extensively damaged.
2. A check of other similar trailers revealed that the bolts attaching the drawbar coupler to the trailer frame were loose. With movement vibration, especially during cross-country operations, these bolts can become so loose as to break the drawbar coupler off the trailer frame. Along with many other trailer bolts, the bolts that attach the drawbar coupler to the trailer frame must be checked for tightness in accordance with PMCS criteria.
3. III Corps G3 issued a one-time inspection requirement for all trailers similar to the subject trailer. These inspections must be completed by 1800 9 October 2001 per FRAGOs 112 and 113 to III Corps OPLAN 97-03 (Phantom Castle). Trailers identified with loose bolts are NMC until bolts are tightened. Additionally, vehicle operators who tow trailers as part of their duties must be briefed on the vehicle/trailer weight, towing, and speed limitations outlined in manuals. For the subject trailer, cross-country/highway maximum payloads are 2640lbs/3360lbs, respectively and speed limits are 6mph/50mph, respectively (TM 9-2330-202-14&P).
4. Support equipment, such as trailers carrying important mission-essential gear, is as vital to our mission as are bullets. Improper maintenance or PMCS can degrade our ability to fight. This incident underscores the importance of performing good PMCS all the time and the consequences of poor PMCS on wartime readiness.

Ensure this Safety Alert receives widest dissemination and is posted on unit bulletin boards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. B. Bell".

B. B. BELL
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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